

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

2           A push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net  
is claimed. The group communication net comprises a controller to manage group  
4 communication net and interface with the push-to-talk communication device. A  
processor converts information signals into packet data suitable for transmission over a  
6 distributed network. The processor may also have identification information, and  
updates its identification information when its current identification information has or is  
8 about to change. The processor then transmits its new identification information to the  
controller. The push-to-talk device also comprises a transmitter to transmit packet data  
10 through a first channel to the controller. A receiver receives packet data through a  
second channel from the controller. The push-to-talk device also comprises a user  
12 activated mechanism to activate the transmitter when a user of the communication device  
wishes to transmit packet data to the controller.

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